

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

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R 140927Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3396

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, CG, CH

SUBJECT: LEAK OF DOCUMENTS ON BELGIAN AID TO ZAIRE AND MOBUTU

TRIP TO CHINA

1. PIERRE DAVISTER, DIRECTOR OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE, "APECIAL," AND REPUTED FINANCIAL PARTNER OF ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU, USES MARCH 12 ISSUE OF MAGAZINE TO PURSUE HIS ATTACK ON BELGIAN POLICY TOWARD ZAIRE BY PUBLISHING TWO CONFIDENTIAL BELGIAN DOCUMENTS WHICH THE HEADLINES AS "EXPLOSIVE" AND WHICH HE INDICATES WERE ACQUIRED BY ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. FIRST DOCUMENT IS ACCOUNT OF FEBRUARY 11 MEETING OF FEDERATION OF BELGIAN ENTERPRISES' COMMISSION ON COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ATTENDED BY JAN VANDEN BLOOCK, SECOND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE. SECOND DOCUMENT IS APPARENTLY AUTHENTIC COPY OF DECEMBER 30, 1974 REPORT FROM BELGIAN EMBASSY PEKING ON MOBUTU'S VISIT TO CHINA EARLIER THAT MONTH.

2. DISCUSSION AT FEB COMMISSION MEETING CENTERED ON WAYS IN WHICH BELGIUM MIGHT REORIENT ITS AID PROGRAM  
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IN ZAIRE TO ABANDON PATERNALISM AND INCREASE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELGIAN BUSINESS. GROUP OBSERVED THAT SERIOUS CONTENTIOUS ISSUES REMAIN BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ZAIRE, ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IS "DISASTROUS," AND ATMOSPHERE THERE IS TENSE.

3. BELGIAN EMBASSY'S REPORT FROM PEKING IS POTENTIALLY MORE DAMAGING TO BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN, AND PERHAPS BELGIAN-CHINESE, RELATIONS. IN RATHER SUPERCILIOUS TONE AMBASSADOR GROOTHAERT REPORTS THAT MOBUTU SOLICITED INVITATION FOR VISIT, DRES HEAVILY ON CHINESE PROPAGANDA THEMES IN HIS STATEMENTS IN CHINA, AND TOOK STRONGLY ANTI-WESTERN LINE WHICH WAS NOT PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED BY CHINESE. ZAIRIAN "AUTHENTICITY" ASPECTS OF VISIT ALSO SAID NOT TO HAVE GONE DOWN WELL WITH CHINESE OR WITH AFRICAN DIPLOMATS. GROOTHAERT SEES ADVANTAGES OF VISIT AS HAVING GONE TO CHINESE, FOR WHOM IT IS IMPORTANT TO GAIN FAVOR WITH IMPORTANT LEADER SUCH AS MOBUTU AS PART OF LONG TERM PLAN TO INCREASE INFLUENCE IN AFRICA WITHOUT MAJOR OUTLAY OF RESOURCES. MOBUTU ON OTHER HAND IS PORTRAYED AS HAVING FAILED TO GAIN FROM CHINA SUPPORT FOR HIS AFRICAN POLICY, IN WHICH HE SOUGHT TO ACT AS ARBITER IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND AVOID LINKING OF CABINDA TO ANGOLA.

4. IN COMMENTING ON DOCUMENTS, DAVISTER SAYS MOBUTU HAS SHOWN GROOTHAERT REPORT TO CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA. DAVISTER ALSO TAKES OCCASION TO CONTINUE HIS VITRIOLIC ATTACKS ON FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE, WHOM HE CHARGES, ALONG WITH AMBASSADOR KERREMANS IN KINSHASA, WITH UNDERMINING BELGIAN-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. DAVISTER IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF GOB DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE ZAIRE STOP IN KING BAUDOUIN'S RECENT AFRICAN TOUR.

5. TEXTS OF DAVISTER ARTICLE AND TWO DOCUMENTS  
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. FIRESTONE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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